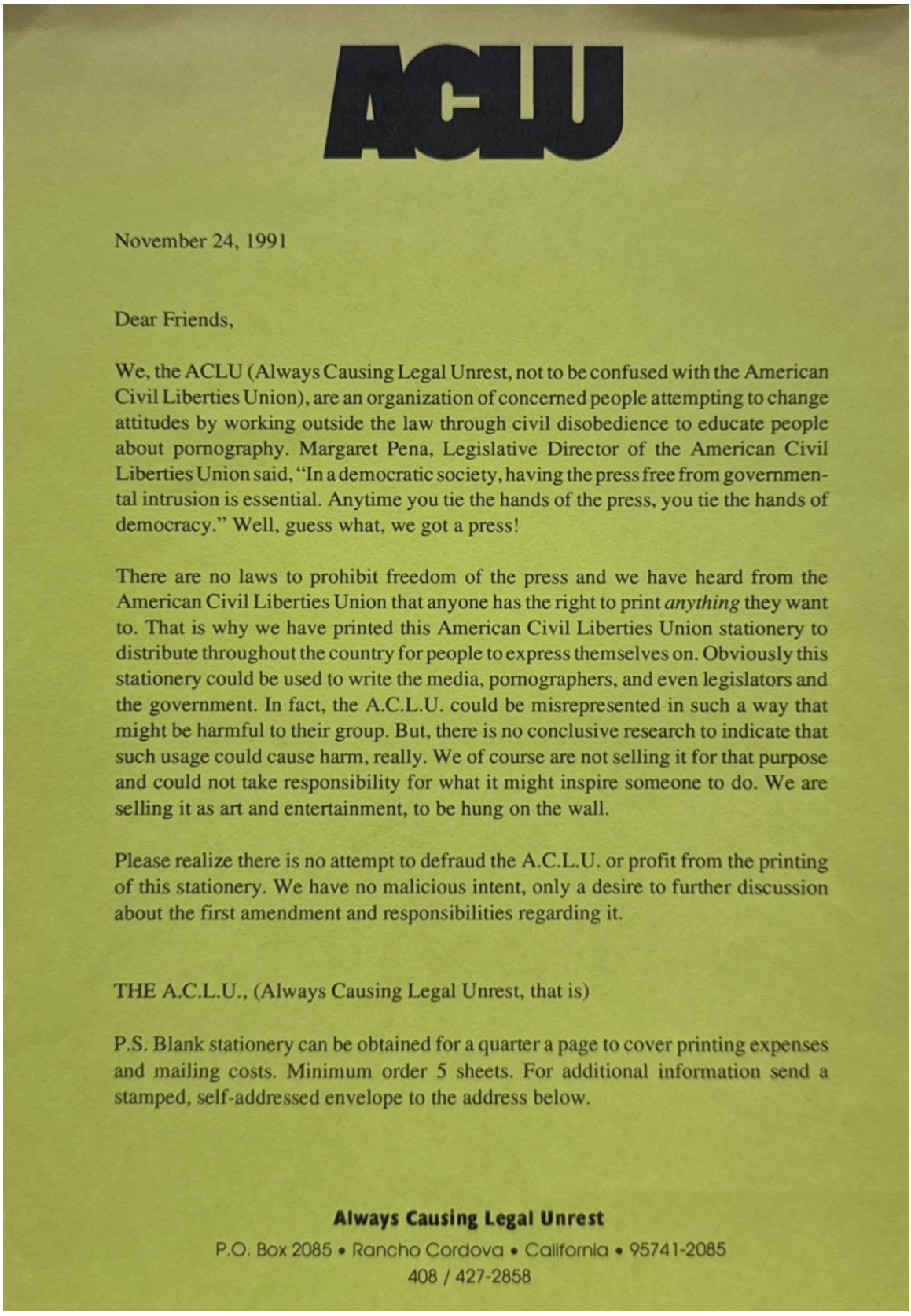
# Always Causing Legal Unrest Stationery Campaign



ACLU

November 24, 1991

Dear Friends,

We, the ACLU (Always Causing Legal Unrest, not to be confused with the American Civil Liberties Union), are an organization of concerned people attempting to change attitudes by working outside the law through civil disobedience to educate people about pornography. Margaret Pena, Legislative Director of the American Civil Liberties Union said, "In a democratic society, having the press free from governmental intrusion is essential. Anytime you tie the hands of the press, you tie the hands of democracy." Well, guess what, we got a press!

There are no laws to prohibit freedom of the press and we have heard from the American Civil Liberties Union that anyone has the right to print *anything* they want to. That is why we have printed this American Civil Liberties Union stationery to distribute throughout the country for people to express themselves on. Obviously this stationery could be used to write the media, pornographers, and even legislators and the government. In fact, the A.C.L.U. could be misrepresented in such a way that might be harmful to their group. But, there is no conclusive research to indicate that such usage could cause harm, really. We of course are not selling it for that purpose and could not take responsibility for what it might inspire someone to do. We are selling it as art and entertainment, to be hung on the wall.

Please realize there is no attempt to defraud the A.C.L.U. or profit from the printing of this stationery. We have no malicious intent, only a desire to further discussion about the first amendment and responsibilities regarding it.

THE A.C.L.U., (Always Causing Legal Unrest, that is)

P.S. Blank stationery can be obtained for a quarter a page to cover printing expenses and mailing costs. Minimum order 5 sheets. For additional information send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the address below.

**Always Causing Legal Unrest**

P.O. Box 2085 • Rancho Cordova • California • 95741-2085

408 / 427-2858

*ACLU-05a - Always Causing Legal Unrest campaign letter, November 24, 1991.*

**Campaign Letter and Blank Minnesota Civil Liberties Union Stationery, November 24, 1991**

*ACLU-05 - Supporting Document Family*

**This is a clever later tactic, not the origin of Always Causing Legal Unrest. It is placed after the art, buttons, Bill of Rights Day leaflet, and police record so the archive reflects its true historical weight.**

## The November 24 Campaign Letter

The campaign letter is headed with the familiar ACLU initials and immediately expands them as "Always Causing Legal Unrest, not to be confused with the American Civil Liberties Union." It describes the group as concerned people working through civil disobedience and public education about pornography. The letter then announces that civil-liberties stationery has been reproduced and will be distributed for people to write to media outlets, pornographers, legislators, and government officials.

The satire works by repeating arguments commonly used in defenses of pornography and speech. The letter says there is no conclusive research proving harm, denies malicious intent, refuses responsibility for what the material might inspire someone to do, and describes the stationery as art and entertainment "to be hung on the wall." The logic is deliberately transferred from sexual representation to institutional identity.

A postscript offers blank stationery for a quarter per page to cover printing and mailing, with a minimum order of five sheets. The surviving letter bears the Always Causing Legal Unrest address in Rancho Cordova, California.

## The Blank Stationery

The second image is a blank sheet headed "Minnesota Civil Liberties Union," 628 Central Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. Its blankness is part of the action. The page is an invitation to another participant to write, circulate, and extend the parody. Beside the campaign letter, it becomes evidence of a material organizing tactic rather than an unexplained piece of institutional paper.

## Correcting the Earlier Internet Archive Description

The first Internet Archive listing for these images incorrectly described them as the separate November 28 cease-and-desist letter from Dorothy M. Ehrlich of the ACLU of Northern California. That letter is not one of the two source images in this family. Its text survives because it was reproduced inside the Bill of Rights Day leaflet in ACLU-03.

The corrected family description is based on what the images actually show: the November 24 Always Causing Legal Unrest campaign announcement and one blank sheet of Minnesota Civil Liberties Union stationery. The old webpage capture is retained only in the reference folder so the metadata error and its correction remain traceable.

## Historical Place in the Larger Project

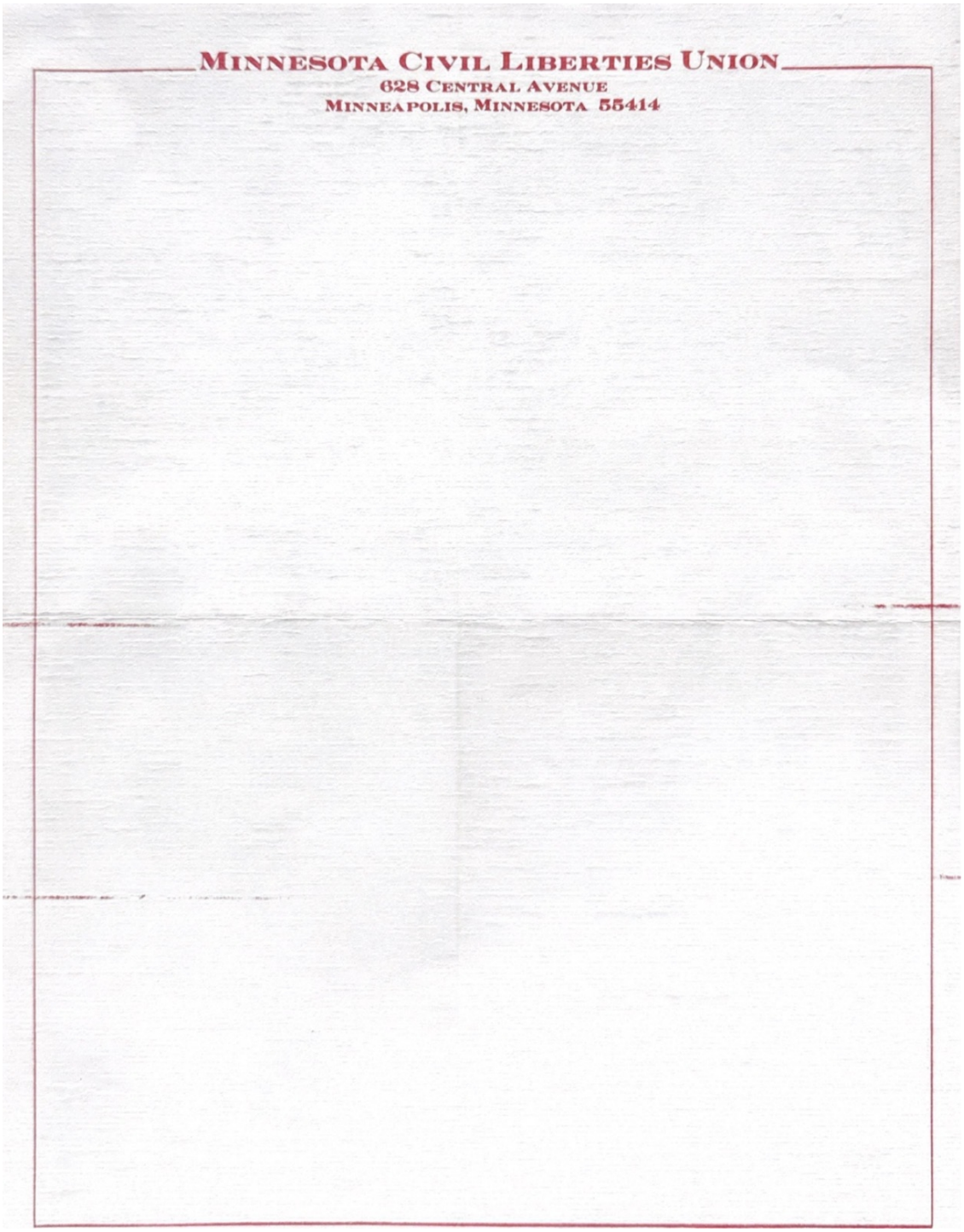
Nikki Craft has clarified that Always Causing Legal Unrest began in Santa Cruz in the early 1980s. She remembers the stationery episode as a later afterthought, not as the foundation of the project. The 1991

documents are therefore valuable as evidence of one tactical experiment in parody, circulation, and institutional critique, but they should not define the whole archive.

### Source and Provenance Note

Two original photographs supplied in 2026. The campaign letter is dated November 24, 1991. The blank stationery is undated. The old Internet Archive webpage capture contained a long mismatched description of a different document and is retained in the reference-only folder.

## Primary-Source Images




*ACLU-05b - Blank Minnesota Civil Liberties Union stationery.*